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## THE FUERSTENWALDE INDUSTRIAL PLANT

The Fuerstenwalde Industrial Plant, a Brandenburg people-owned plant, was formerly the Fuerstenwalde branch of Julius Pintsch, KG. Before the war it had 100 hectares of shops and buildings, employed 7,500 to 8,000 persons, and mainly produced railroad equipment such as signal installations, safety devices, brakes, lamps, etc. During the war, it was converted to armament production and, consequently, was dismantled after the end of the war. Except for 10 hectares of shop space which had never been used for other than peacetime production, all buildings were blown up.

Reconstruction was started at the end of 1947, and the plant began to work with whatever machinery and materials were on hand. At first, it undertook mainly welding and automobile repairs. Gradually, it expanded its facilities and undertook larger assignments, such as tipcars for the Ruetersdorf limestone quarry and charging carts for limestone furnaces. Compressor cars are being built for the Berlin Brake Works, a Soviet corporation, and the Reichsbahn has ordered locomotive cranes.

Other orders include machinery for the DEKA Tire Plant, testing equipment for bicycle tires, shaping equipment, and tank cars. The Lauchhammer Conveyor Factory is having lathe work done at Fuerstenwalde. Iron tools are being manufactured for export, and thousands of milk cans are being produced. The plant also repairs all types of machine tools, motor vehicles, tractors, and agricultural machinery. These repairs amount to about 10 percent of the plant's total capacity which is about 2.2 million Deutsche marks per year. The carpenter shop in the plant, which now handles all wood-working jobs in connection with the work, is to be expanded to produce for export.

The plant encounters great difficulties because on the average the machine tools are 35 to 40 years old and require constant repairs. An electric power installation built from materials on hand permits the plant to save 1,100 Deutsche marks per month in its outlays for electric power.

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